

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 258011

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 258011

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: CU/ARTS:RICHARD SCHECHNER'S PERFORMANCE GROUP  
PRIVATE TOUR

REF: NEW DELHI 14041; HEMSING/LEWIS CORRESPONDENCE OF  
AUGUST 13, 1975

1. PERFORMANCE GROUP IS ONE OF MOST FAMOUS OFF-BROADWAY  
EXPERIMENTAL COMPANIES, FOUNDED IN 1967. BRECHT'S "MOTHER  
COURAGE" IS ONLY PLAY BEING PERFORMED THIS TOUR. PLAY  
LASTS ALMOST FOUR HOURS AND AUDIENCES ARE ENCOURAGED TO  
MOVE AROUND THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE PLAY OCCURS. ENVIRON-  
MENT CONSISTS OF BLEACHERS, PLATFORMS, STAIRS, LADDERS AND  
FLOORS.

2. SCHECHNER THEATRE GROUP (15 PERSONS) TOURING INDIA AS  
FOLLOWS:  
FEBRUARY 2-11 - NEW DELHI  
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PAGE 02 STATE 258011

12-22 - CHANDIGAR

FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 2 - LUCKNOW

MARCH 3-18 - CALCUTTA

MARCH 20-30 -BOMBAY

3. DR. SURESH AWASTHI OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF THEATRE IS COORDINATING TOUR. SCHECHNER DOES NOT KNOW PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE OR LOCAL SPONSORS IN EACH CITY EXCEPT THAT THERE WILL BE TWELVE PERFORMANCES IN ALL. COMPANY ALSO THERE TO STUDY INDIAN FOLK THEATRE.

4. SCHECHNER HAS RAISED DOLS 40,000 FOR INDIA TRIP FROM HIS OWN FULBRIGHT GRANT, JDR III FUND, GUGGENHEIM FOUNDATION. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO INDIA AFTER POSSIBLE JAPANESE ENGAGEMENTS IN APRIL.

5. FOR TOKYO: COMPANY HAS BEEN INVITED BY MR. KOTO IIZUKA OF KAGUYA INTERNATIONAL COMPANY TO GIVE PERFORMANCES UNDER AUSPICES KIVA EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE GROUP. BUSINESS FIRM WOULD PAY ALL EXPENSES IN TOKYO BUT SCHECHNER NEEDS TRANSPORTATION BOMBAY-TOKYO-BOMBAY WHICH JAPANESE SPONSOR CANNOT PROVIDE. CAN POST SUGGEST LOCAL FUNDING SOURCE FOR FIFTEEN PERSONS? INGERSOLL

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